

Hate Crimes

"Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. *All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent*; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

Up and through the first quarter of 2002, twelve crimes were reported in Cambridge that could be classified as a "hate crimes". Due to the anniversary of the tragic events that occurred on September 11th, analysis reveals a total of four situations that were rooted from this historical date. The following is a chronological recap of the events that have taken place so far this year:

1. The first hate crime of 2002 occurred late in the month of February when a white male in his twenties passed a black female on the street in front of the parking garage on Green St. and called her a racial slur. The culprit then punched the female in the chest for no apparent reason. When a by-stander questioned the perpetrator about his actions, he reprimanded the witness by saying "don't stick up for an *expletive*".
2. An incident in the middle of March ensued after three suspects known to the victim yelled anti-gay remarks at him. As the victim was leaving the Cambridge Hospital methadone clinic, one of the suspects yelled negative comments regarding his sexuality and threatened to kill him. Upon arriving at his home later that day, the victim was confronted by two of the same suspects when they boxed him in with their cars. The situation ended when a neighbor came outside and diffused the situation.
3. The first day of April marked the third hate crime in 2002. In this incident, a live TV show was being conducted at CCTV, an anonymous caller phoned in and made ethnically-related remarks to the host, who was a Muslim.
4. An act of malicious destruction was committed during the first weekend of April when racial

slurs were etched into the victim's car on Washington St. In this instance, an unknown suspect scratched the paint to the car in various spots and scratched racially biased threats on the hood of the car.

5. An additional racially prejudiced incident took place on May 1st when a middle-aged perpetrator was sitting in his car and called the victim a racial insult while he was walking along Huron Ave.

6. An incident that took place over the second weekend of May involving a cab driver marks the sixth hate crime of 2002. In this situation, a cab driver picked up a fare and headed towards East Cambridge. The cab driver stated to the fare "you're a Middle-Easterner...I don't want you in my cab". The cab driver began to drive recklessly and the victim jumped out in the Central Square area.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 was enacted on April 23rd 1990, requiring the Attorney General to collect data on crimes exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual prejudice. It was not until September of 1994 that the Act was amended to include biased acts against those with either physical or mental disabilities. The 1999 Uniform Crime Report reveals that there were as many as 7,876 incidents, reported to the FBI in 1999 that categorized as hate crimes. A small portion of these incidents (0.2%, or 19, in total) was disability-related, while the majority of them were race-oriented (56.3%, or 4,295, in total). Religion-oriented hate crimes were measured at 16.5% (1,411, in total), and Ethnic hate crimes at 10.9% (829, in total). Hate crimes based on Sexual Orientation were quoted at 16.0% (1,317 incidents), while Multiple-Bias incidents came to about 0.1% (5 in all).

7. A second incident in May took place when an unprovoked assault took place in Porter Square. This incident ensued when a group of 4-5 homeless white males attacked the mentally handicapped victim and made anti-gay insults at him. One of the suspects kicked the victim in the back while another punched him in the mouth, causing a laceration.

8. An assault that took place in early July involved harassment regarding the victim's sexual orientation. While walking along the street in Cambridgeport, a male suspect approached the victim and punched him in the face, and then jabbed him in the back with a bat. After the assault, the suspect threatened to do more bodily harm if he saw him again.

9. A visit to the Cambridge City Hospital in mid-July was a result of the ninth hate crime. An African American female was walking towards Richdale Ave. when a car came from behind yelling racial slurs, and threw an unknown object, knocking her to the ground. The victim was unable to identify any suspects and/or motor vehicle.

10. Three days after the anniversary of September 11th, a business competitor took a knife to his own throat and made a slicing motion, saying he would kill his competitor, due to the fact that he is Pakistan. The same suspect had been harassing his competitor for three months, saying he was a terrorist and that he wanted to kill him.

11. While working at the Sunoco gas station in late September, the clerk was approached by a white male who stated "you f***ing Muslim". The clerk ran into the station and locked the door behind him while the suspect continued to yell at him and threaten to come back and do physical harm to the clerk. The suspect entered an awaiting vehicle, which was occupied by a female passenger.

12. The final incident took place on August 28th when a Middle Eastern woman reported that her neighbor yelled "f***ing Arabs" as she entered her home.